

NEWS BREAK

Volume 21, Number 3

April 2006

APRIL 5, 2006 MEETING

More Tips & Tricks, Font Management and What's Behind the Screen?"

Join us on Wednesday, **April 5**, at 7:30 pm in Hodgdon IRC, lecture hall 4 on the SUNY Oneonta campus for our April MUG ONE meeting.

For our encore Tips & Tricks meeting we'll answer questions on email and Address Book backup, share tips on turning off Dashboard and things to do before upgrading software, and program co-chair Jesse Hogue will discuss the Mac "Virus" – threat or hoax?

Our own Gerry Stoner will then enlighten us on font management, a very important subject in book compositing. John Maas will wrap up the meeting by showing what's behind your browser screen along with a brief survey of web design, CSS, RSS and backing up your bookmarks.

For "dessert" we'll be viewing more Photoshop training sessions from Photoshop World Boston 2005, courtesy of Peachpit Press.

As always, questions and answers, door prizes and refreshments will round out the evening.

MUG ONE meetings are free of charge and open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

For directions, 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>

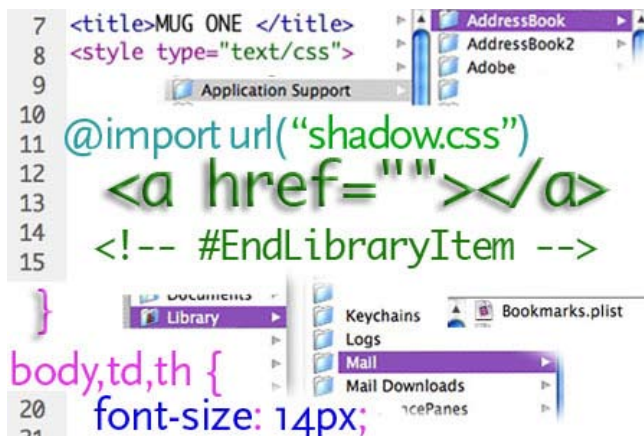
MAY 3 – SAVE THE DATE FOR DAVE MARRA!

For the fourth year running, we're thrilled to be hosting Apple Senior Engineer Dave Marra as the special guest presenter for our May 3 MUG ONE meeting.

Dave will show us the latest that Apple has to offer, help us make sense of the move to Intel-based processors, and answer our questions. Be prepared to learn lots; Dave's presentations are always packed with information.

Remember, **May is Marra Month**. Mark May 3 on your calendar, and plan to bring your friends to this very special meeting.

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



What's behind your browser screen? Find out on April 5. Illustration by John Maas

APPLE CELEBRATES ITS 30TH BIRTHDAY

It's no April Fools joke – Apple Computer has just marked its 30th anniversary. On April 1, 1976, co-founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak filed business partnership papers to start Apple Computer, which originally operated out of Steve Jobs' parents garage. The two Steves created the Apple 1, one of the first "personal" computers (actually a logic board mounted on a piece of wood, with ports to connect it to a television and keyboard), and offered it for sale for \$666.66.

Thirty years later, Apple is going strong and leading the industry in innovation. It's been a privilege to be along for the ride. Happy birthday, Apple!

MUG ONE OFFICERS FOR 2005-2006

Elsa Travisano, President mugone@stny.rr.com	607/433-2569
Sven Anderson, Vice President anderss@oneonta.edu	607/436-3174
Terry Helser, Sec. & OSC Liaison: helsertl@oneonta.edu	607/638-9885
Joanne Johnston, Treasurer ejohnston@stny.rr.com	607/432-6320
John Maas, Program Co-Chair xaxat@stny.rr.com	607/437-0665
Jesse Hogue, Program Co-Chair jessehogie@mac.com	607/436-6912
Brian Foley, SIG Coordinator foleymb@dmcom.net	607/988-7031
Johanna Koenig, Librarian email: jokoenig@dmcom.net	607/432-4975

MARCH 8, 2006 MEETING

“By Special Request” – Tips, Tricks and Cool Product Demos

Jesse Hogue, Brian Foley, John Maas and Elsa Travisano

7:30 pm, Hodgdon IRC, Lecture Hall 4, SUNY Oneonta

Announcements

President Elsa Travisano started the meeting by announcing that the second set of segments from Peachpit’s Photoshop World DVD would be shown at the end of the meeting, after door prizes and refreshments. Joanne Johnston, our treasurer, indicated that our current bank balance is \$1,502.82 tonight. Brian Foley passed around index cards for members and guests to write questions and program suggestions for the next meeting. Elsa then gave an orientation to the evening’s raffle prizes.

Discussion swerved to the iTunes Store’s new Multi-Pass subscription plan for television shows like the Daily Show and the Colbert Report. There was also talk about the latest announcements from Cupertino, including the iPod HiFi speaker system and the new iMac minis with Intel chips. If you are tempted by one of the new Intel Macs (the lineup now includes the iMac, the mini and the Mac Book Pro), be aware that not all the support and maintenance applications are able to support the new chipset yet, though Intel-compatible and Universal (made to run on both Intel- and PowerPC-based processors) applications are being announced on a daily basis.

We wrapped up the announcements segment by welcoming back our librarian, Johanna Koenig, with a round of applause. It’s good to see her healthy again and back on the job.

Q & A

During the question and answer period, Elsa was asked for her opinion on whether Apple is moving towards offering content delivery for movies and other types of entertainment. From Elsa’s perspective, the answer is “yes.”

A question on whether it made sense to use one computer as the backup destination for data from another computer (both in use and with varying sets of data) resulted in a discussion of the shortcomings and possible dangers of such a plan. Elsa recommended that a separate hard drive be purchased for backups, that each computer be backed up to a separate partition on the drive, and that a backup application like Apple’s Backup (part of the .Mac suite) or Retrospect be used rather than simply copying via the Finder.

A discussion on wireless routers brought testimonials for Netgear’s \$45 version from OfficeMax. Brian Foley wanted to know if there was a way to fix a broken wire to an iBook power brick (transformer) and most thought at

\$40 for a new one, it was not worth making the effort. The new magnetic connector on the Mac Book Pro’s power cable should eliminate the problem of broken power cables or pins.

Finally, in a discussion on repairing an old G3 iMac, it was pointed out that these Macs are now two to three generations old (the current chipset is the G5 or the Intel-based iMac). If a repair or upgrade for a G3 iMac were to cost more than a couple hundred dollars, it was suggested that the money would be better spent on a new Mac.

Program

The program portion of the evening began with Jesse Hogue demonstrating Automator, an application that is installed in the Applications folder along with OS 10.4 Tiger. Automator allows you to combine ready-made or custom designed Actions into a workflow to perform a task or a series of tasks. It makes handling repetitive tasks “drag and drop” easy. Jesse showed us how to set up an Automator workflow that checks your calendar for birthdays, sets up an appropriate greeting in an email and sends it to the birthday boy or girl.

Brian Foley then waxed eloquent with praise for StickyBrain 4, which you can get from Chronosnet.com as a 30-day trial evaluation copy and then buy for \$39.99. StickyBrain is a phenomenal application for organizing all your projects and collecting snippets of information from a wide range of sources in one place. One niftyStickyBrain feature is the ability to set up a hot key. Then anytime you find something you want to store in StickyBrain, you highlight it and hit the key to transfer it into StickyBrain. StickyBrain 4 is for OS 10.4.2 or newer, while StickyBrain 3 is still available for earlier versions of the operating system.

Elsa then went equally ecstatic for “Delicious Library” from Delicious Monster www.delicious-monster.com to catalogue all your books, CDs, DVDs and videos. Anything with a barcode can be scanned with an iSight camera or the \$175 wireless Bluetooth scanner you can buy with the Delicious Library application. The \$40 program organizes your holdings and adds all the information from Amazon.com to the file. Elsa then proceeded to scan a shelf of books from our library and build a file for it in a couple minutes.

Thanks, Jesse, Brian, Elsa and John for a very entertaining and informative evening. As the crew set up the Photoshop World show, we raffled lots of goodies to members, and communed with oatmeal cookies and soda. Well done everyone!

Join us again for MUG ONE’s April 5 meeting in IRC-4 at 7:30 PM. What better way to spend a Wednesday evening than joining in the fun that is MUG ONE?

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

Special Offers from the Apple User Group Bulletin

Discover Your Mac: Spotlight Movie Sale

Discover Your Mac announces the Spotlight Movie, a comprehensive video guide to learning and using Spotlight, the new technology for searching, organizing and using your Mac. Watch a demonstration of Spotlight's powerful features, then try them yourself. For more information, email spotlightmovie@DiscoverYourMac.com.

DiscoverYour Mac offers user group members an automatic double your order sale. For example, order 1 copy and get 2. Order 5 and get 10. Current price \$29.99 per copy.

Enter "*****" into the additional comments field at the bottom of the order page, and you will automatically be shipped double your order.

<http://www.DiscoverYourMac.com>

This offer is valid through May 30, 2006.

Wiley Books: Save up to 40 Percent

Wiley is offering special discount pricing on their technology books. Choose from hundreds of invaluable resources in bestselling series such as For Dummies, Visual, Sybex and Wrox. Whether you are looking for a title on Mac OS X, Xcode programming, digital cameras or Photoshop, Wiley has a how-to reference just for you.

To receive 20 percent off any Wiley title, order online. Or, to receive 40 percent off your bulk order of any five or more books (same or different), contact Jeff Parker at jparker@wiley.com.

This discount is particularly valuable for technical and trade books not normally discounted by Amazon and other on-line vendors.

Discount code: *****

<http://www.wiley.com>

This offer is valid through June 30, 2006.

The HardCover Case: 30 Percent Discount

The intuitive design of this case attaches to your laptop with Velcro tabs, keeping it safe from scratches, absorbing shock and allowing you to carry and organize loose papers, business cards and CDs.

The HardCover is made of padded hand-stitched vinyl and comes in three sizes: 12 inch, 15 inch or 17 inch, primarily for Apple laptops. However, these sizes fit many PCs.

Regularly \$40, plus shipping and handling, user group members pay only \$28.

Coupon Code: *****

<http://www.hardcovercase.com>

This offer is valid through June 30, 2006.

Ashalii Puzzle: 35 Percent Discount

Ashalii is a unique and challenging arcade puzzle game set in a trap in outer space. While fitting shapes into the board,

players connect matching pieces to remove them. To escape, they must advance through increasingly difficult levels, each requiring more adjacent matching pieces than the last. The game features engaging space backgrounds and attractive fractal pieces. Ashalii is for Mac OS X v10.1 or later.

The standard price is \$14.95, but this exclusive user group offer lets you apply a 35 percent discount at checkout.

Coupon code: *****

<http://curryk.com/ashalii.html>

This offer is valid through June 30, 2006.

Case-mate: Premium Form-Fit Leather iPod Case

Rich Napa leather surrounds a specially-engineered impact-resistant plastic shell making the Case-mate case a must-have for your iPod. Each case is lined with ultra-soft felt, securing your iPod while allowing complete accessibility to all features. Each case comes with a full-face screen protector, a fully-removable belt clip and comes in eight fashionable colors.

Purchase an iPod nano case for \$14.99 or video case (30Gb/60Gb) for \$19.99, which is \$10 off the retail price.

Coupon Code: *****

<http://www.case-mate.net>

This offer is valid through June 30, 2006.

Prosoft Products: 25 Percent Off

Prosoft is dedicated to creating professional quality software designed for easy use by both novice and expert users. They are data advocates, fighting to preserve data and prevent data loss.

Prosoft is offering Apple User Group members a special 25 percent off the retail price of any of their software programs, including Data Rescue II or Drive Genius, usually \$99, for \$75 and Data Backup, Picture Rescue, or TuneTech for iPod for \$45, a \$14 savings over the standard \$59 price.

Discount code: *****

<http://www.prosofteng.com>

This offer is valid through June 30, 2006.

The MUG Store

The MUG Store offers free freight to members, RAM rebates and aggressive pricing on new and reconditioned Macs, plus the largest selection of pre-owned Macs on the planet.

1/31/2006-04/30/06 User ID: ***** Password: *****

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

Information about user group vendor offers and more can be found at the UGAB website: <http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offerss.html> And remember to check the user group members-only discounts page at <http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers/vendorcodes.htm> Password: *****



MAC 911 – HELP DESK

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

CURSING THE CURSOR

I just purchased my first Mac after using Windows for many years. I would like to replace my arrow cursor with something bigger and perhaps with a different picture. How do I do this? – *Joe Robertson*

Joe, better that I break it to you than a passing stranger in a Wi-Fi coffee shop: most Mac users would no more replace Apple's elegant black arrow cursor with some pixelated sparkler than we would slap rouge and lipstick on the Venus de Milo.

But que será, será. You can change your Mac's cursor with the help of Unsanity's Mighty Mouse (\$10). This haxie, or small bit of code written to tweak OS X, allows you to customize the Mac's built-in cursors, turning your wait cursor into a wiggling mermaid or a purple bouncing alien, for instance. Mighty Mouse lets you choose additional cursor images from sites such as ResExcellence. You can even import cursors designed for Windows XP.

If, after reflection, all you want is a big cursor, change it by going to the Universal Access preference pane, clicking on Mouse, and adjusting the Cursor Size slider.

Mail Time

How do I make Apple's Mail display a 24-hour format for messages that appear in my inbox? – *Brian Shin*

On the Clock Give an American Mac a 24-hour clock by using the International preference pane's Customize option.

You can make this happen through System Preferences. Open the International preference pane, click on the Formats tab, and click on the Customize button next to Times. In the resulting sheet, select Short from the Show pop-up menu. Click on the hour numeral in the text field below to reveal a pop-up menu that begins with 1-12 (see "On the Clock"). Choose 1-24 and click on OK. You've now created a Custom region. When you next open Mail, you'll find that message times are in the 24-hour format.

Maintenance Must-Haves

After many years of using Symantec's Norton Utilities, I've got to find another diagnostic tool for Tiger. The company's Web site says that Norton Utilities for Macintosh 8.0.3 is the last version Symantec will release, and that it will not revise the suite for OS X 10.4. What other application has

features most like Norton's? – *Dave Brady*

There are a variety of diagnostic and repair tools for the Mac, including OS X's First Aid (part of Disk Utility in /Applications/ Utilities), Alsoft's \$80 DiskWarrior 3 (), Micromat's \$98 TechTool Pro 4.0.1 (), and Prosoft Engineering's \$99 Drive Genius 1.0.1 (). DiskWarrior is completely unlike Norton Utilities, but that's not a bad thing. TechTool Pro and Drive Genius offer features similar to some of Norton's components. The comparison shakes out this way:

Disk Utility's First Aid is free, and free is good. You can boot from your Mac OS X installation disc and run Disk Utility to try to repair your startup drive. Doing so isn't always effective, but it can't hurt.

DiskWarrior does one thing, but that thing is crucial: the program repairs low-level hard-drive corruption with a skill no other utility can match. Every Mac user should have a copy of it. TechTool Pro, on the other hand, performs many services. It tests your Mac's hardware components--RAM, processor, and FireWire and USB ports, for example. It also performs many of the tasks Norton Utilities does--repairing corrupt volumes, protecting files from accidental deletion, and recovering data if the drive goes kablooyo.

Drive Genius also performs a variety of chores, many of which focus on disk functions. For instance, you can use it to optimize your drive, much as you could do with Norton's Speed Disk. You can use it to expand or shrink disk partitions without reformatting your hard drive. Drive Genius will also clone volumes and check the integrity of your hard drive. As for Norton Utilities-style repair, in addition to repairing permissions, Drive Genius will attempt to rebuild one of a volume database's trickier objects, the Catalog B-tree (something Norton never did well). And like Norton, Drive Genius allows you to edit data sectors, something other utilities won't do.

I wish I could say "Get this one and you're done," but I'd be doing you a disservice if I did. All of these utilities have something to offer. If I had to prioritize their helpfulness, I would recommend DiskWarrior for its one really good trick, Drive Genius for its all-around drive- maintenance and data-repair goodness, and finally TechTool Pro for its repair and data-recovery charms.

Making Your (Power)Point

I need to create a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation that includes QuickTime videos for someone who uses Windows. More than one person will use the presentation, so I don't want to assume they all have QuickTime Player for Windows. What's the best way to handle this? – *Jan Bobbett*

Wonderful as Apple's QuickTime is, it's not on every Windows PC. To make sure Windows users get the most

continued on page 5

– Mac 911, continued from page 4

from your presentations, convert your QuickTime movies to either AVI or MPEG-4 format--both of which will play within a PowerPoint presentation on a Windows computer. Then embed those movies in your presentations.

To convert the movie files, open them in QuickTime Player Pro (\$30) and choose File: Export. In the resulting Save Exported File As dialog box, choose either Movie To AVI or Movie To MPEG-4 from the Export pop-up menu.

Movies exported at the default AVI export setting don't look all that great. To improve their appearance (although you'll also increase their file size in the process), click on the Options button in the Save Exported File As dialog box, and then click on the Setting button in the Video portion of the AVI Settings window that appears. In the resulting Compression Settings window, move the Quality slider up to High or Best.

Be kind to your PC-using colleagues. When creating PowerPoint presentations, export embedded QuickTime movies in a format that's compatible with Windows PCs.

If you're using MPEG-4 instead and are unhappy with the look of the default export, click on the Options button in the same Save Exported File As dialog box. In the MPEG-4 Export Settings window, make these changes: choose MP4 from the File Format pop-up menu, and select MPEG-4 Basic from the Video Format pop-up menu (see "Special Export"). If the movie's frame is too large to fit your presentation, use a smaller image size when you export the movie--change it from 640 by 480 to 320 by 240 for standard QuickTime movies, for example, or to 320 by 180 if it's a DV movie (DV movies have a different aspect ratio). Doing so will reduce not only the movie's dimensions but also the amount of storage it requires (thus making your PowerPoint package a little more easily transportable). Set the Frame Rate pop-up menu to Current and the Key Frame option to Automatic.

By default, the Data Rate field is set to 64 Kbps, which is really low if you want to maintain the quality of the original video. You may need to play with settings in this field to get it right. I've found that a setting of 1,000 Kbps or higher gives me quality that closely matches the original movie's. I wouldn't use such a high rate if I were streaming video across the Internet, because all but the fastest connections would choke, but for a PowerPoint presentation on a hard drive, it's fine.

Offline Site Seeing

Is there an easy way for me to download an entire Web site so that I can view its contents even when my Mac is not connected to the Internet? That way, I could jump on my next flight, launch Safari, and then browse the fully downloaded pages. –Tyler Moynihan

There are several ways to suck out the contents of a Web site and store it locally. If you simply desire a single page, use your browser's File: Save As command to save it as a Web page, or a Web archive in Safari--speak (see "Second Site"). Once the page and its contents download, you can read it when your Mac's not connected to the Internet.

If you'd like to grab more than just the page you're viewing, you must turn to other tools, such as Microsoft's free Internet Explorer. Use this to navigate to the site you want. Then choose File: Save As and make sure Web Archive appears in the Format pop-up menu at the bottom of the Save window. Click on the Options button, select the Download Links option, and tell the program how many levels deep you'd like it to save. For example, two levels would save the home page and any pages on that specific site to which the home page links. Click on OK and then on Save. Internet Explorer will download the Web site. To read it later, just open the Web archive.

Rick Cranisky's SiteSucker (free [donations accepted]) is another good option. In addition to allowing you to set the number of levels it downloads, SiteSucker lets you queue up sites so you can easily grab a number of them. And then there's Limit Point Software's Blue Crab (\$25). It offers more-extensive options than Internet Explorer or SiteSucker--for example, you can instruct it to download HTML files only, to skip images, or to grab pages exceeding a certain number of kilobytes. You can even configure it to enter login information for protected sites.

If you want an even more complete solution and are willing to pay for it, check out Soft Chaos's \$80 Webstractor--a utility that, among other things, can automatically capture Web pages as you browse.

Ready For The Worst

One day, you just might waltz up to your computer, press the power switch, and stare in dumb horror as your Mac displays a flashing folder, offers a plain blue screen, or does little more than whirl. It makes sense, then, to have a troubleshooting drive at the ready that can help you repair your ailing machine.

• Your System Discs

The good news is that you already have an emergency boot disc: the Mac OS X CD or DVD that you bought or that came with your Mac. Insert one of these and hold down the C key at startup to make your Mac boot off the disc. Then use the disc's copy of Disk Utility. (If you're using the Tiger installation disc, choose Utilities: Disk Utility and then click on the First Aid tab when Disk Utility launches.)

• Commercial Troubleshooting Utilities

If you own a utility such as DiskWarrior, TechTool Pro, or Drive Genius, these also come on bootable discs. Use

continued on page 6

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

Editor: Elsa Travisano

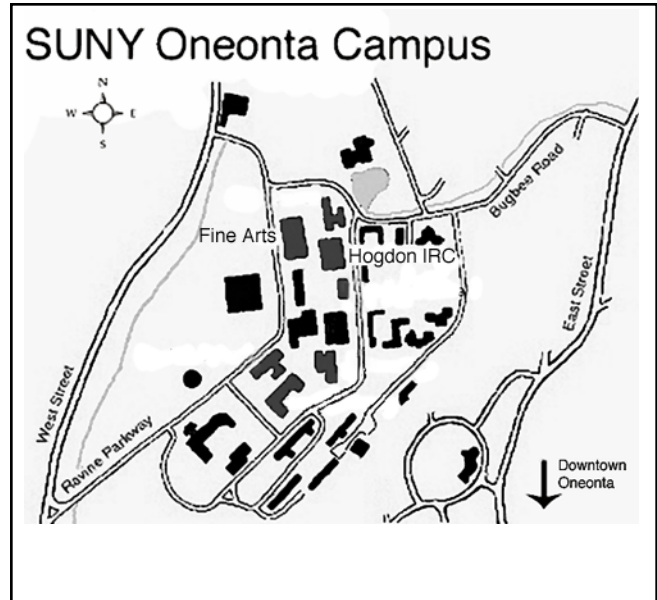
Contact *Newsbreak* at:

mugone@stny.rr.com
http://www.mugone.com

28 State Street
Oneonta, NY 13820

607/433-2569
Fax: 607/433-0909

Newsbreak is an independent publication not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc. *Newsbreak* received an award for excellence at the January 2001 User Group University.



– *Mac 911, continued from page 5*

them as you would your system disc.

• FireWire Drive

You can create a bootable troubleshooting device that, because it can hold multiple repair utilities, exceeds the capabilities of an OS X installation disc. For instance, if you have a FireWire hard drive, it can probably do the job. (Not all FireWire drives can boot OS X; see our review of FireWire hard drives)

If the drive has enough capacity, duplicate your Mac's current startup drive using Mike Bombich's Carbon Copy Cloner (\$5). Any troubleshooting or repair utilities you have on your startup drive will work from the FireWire drive. On the other hand, you can create a fresh emergency drive by installing a clean copy of Mac OS on the FireWire drive and then installing your troubleshooting or repair utilities on it.

When choosing an emergency FireWire drive, consider one that you can easily slip into a pocket or pack in a computer case—for instance, LaCie's \$240 Mobile Hard Drive or Other World Computing's \$250 Mercury On-the-Go (both ; see our latest review of portable FireWire drives). Such a small drive will prove a useful companion both in your office and on the road.

• Older iPod

Do you have an older iPod (first through fourth generation)? It can also boot a Mac when attached to that Mac's FireWire port. (Sorry, current iPod models can't.) If the iPod has about 5GB to spare, you can install a bootable version of Tiger on it, as well as your troubleshooting utilities. This is a very handy way to lighten your carry-on bag when traveling: all you need is your iPod for both tunes

and emergency protection.

Note that the iPod was not designed to be a primary startup drive. It has no vents, and the heat buildup from running its drive constantly will likely shorten its life. But I've successfully booted an iPod to quickly repair a misbehaving Mac without apparent mishap.

Tip of the month

Bring bookmarks into Firefox: Your review of Web browsers (November 2005) firmly convinced me to switch from Microsoft's Internet Explorer to Mozilla's Firefox. However, the Import wizard in Firefox 1.0.7 will not import bookmarks from Internet Explorer. I finally found a quick way to do this crucial task.

Choose Bookmarks: Manage Bookmarks, and then choose File: Import. Make sure that the From File option is enabled, click on Next, and in the resulting Import Bookmark File window, navigate to the Explorer folder (/ your user folder/ Library/Preferences/Explorer). Select the Favorites.html file and click on Open to import the bookmarks.

– Henry Francis

You can also use this technique to import your Explorer History file as bookmarks. Simply choose History.html rather than Favorites.html in the Import Bookmark File window.--Ed.

Macworld Magazine Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes*, fifth edition, and *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide* (both Peachpit Press, 2005).

Find Chris' books at www.amazon.com and www.peachpit.com. Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at <http://www.macworld.com/use-roffer>.]