

# NEWS BREAK

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new york

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## APRIL 2, 2008 MEETING

### FINE ARTS COMPUTER ART LAB TOUR – SVEN ANDERSON

Join us on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. in **Fine Arts building, room 321(Computer Art lab)** on the SUNY Oneonta campus for MUG ONE's April meeting.

Our own **Sven Anderson**, assistant professor of art at SUNY Oneonta, will take us on a hands-on tour of the Computer Art lab.

Attendees will be able to try out the amazing new **Wacom Cintiq** drawing tablets, which let you draw right on the screen with a pressure sensitive stylus, and see demos of **Adobe Lightroom, Photoshop** and **Corel Painter**.

Sven's Computer Art lab tour is always a favorite program. Don't miss it!

As always, the meeting will include a question and answer session, refreshments and a door prize drawing for members.

Because of the special location of this month's meeting, library materials will not be available.

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

The Computer Art lab is located in the North wing of the Fine Arts building and is across from the IRC where we normally meet and just north of the Netzer administration building. For directions, see <http://www.oneonta.edu/navigation/directions.asp>

For more information, check MUG ONE's website <http://www.mugone.com> or email Elsa Travisano at: [mugone@stny.rr.com](mailto:mugone@stny.rr.com).

### PLEASE COMPLETE OUR QUESTIONNAIRE

Program Co-Chair Brian Foley has created a questionnaire to learn more about computers our members are using and what program topics would most interest us. Please take a minute to fill out the form at <http://mathmojo.com/mugone/form.html> Thank you!

### UPCOMING MUG ONE MEETINGS

May 7 - Apple's Dave Marra!

June 4 - to be announced

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



Try out a Cintiq tablet/display at April's Computer Lab tour!

### MAY 7 PROGRAM – APPLE'S DAVE MARRA

May is Marra Month at MUG ONE, and we are extremely fortunate to have Apple Senior Systems Engineer David M. Marra return as our special guest presenter for our May 7 meeting. This will be Dave's **seventh** consecutive presentation for MUG ONE!

Come and be ready to learn – and be wowed – by Dave's inimitable show-and-tell of Apple's latest and greatest new products. Who knows what he'll bring for us to try out – maybe even a Macbook Air!

We'll be welcoming Dave in our usual location, Hogdon IRC lecture hall 4 on the SUNY Oneonta campus. For more information about Dave and his presentations, go to

<http://www.marrathon.com/>

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## MAC 911 – HELP DESK Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

### LEAVING THE PAST BEHIND

Reader J.T. is having a hard time letting go of the past. He writes:

*I have a Microtek ScanMaker X6EL flatbed scanner, which I want to connect and use with my iMac PowerPC G4, 800 MHz computer. Since this scanner is no longer supported by Microtek, their Tech Support advised that I should try the software program VueScan.*

He then goes on to list a pile of adapters he'd use to allow the scanner's SCSI interface to connect to the iMac's FireWire port. He concludes:

*The estimated total cost of this hardware/software bundle is \$200+. Is there a simpler, less costly, way to connect and operate the Microtek ScanMaker X6 EL scanner with the iMac computer under Mac OS X, v. 10.4.11? Will the listed hardware/software above work? Any other suggestions, other than purchase a "new, modern" scanner and start over?*

J.T., the danger of asking for help from others is that they'll occasionally offer advice that you don't want to hear. Example: When you ask, "My girlfriend has threatened to poison my chowder the next time I sneeze and I believe she's quite serious about it. Other than dumping her, what can I do?" a person who truly cares about your welfare will suggest that you back up a step and reconsider your commitment to this modern-day Borgia.

This is one of those cases. Although you don't want to hear it, it's time to let go of that old scanner and get a new one. Here's why:

Those connectivity and driver issues are a biggish deal. Once upon a time I tested some FireWire to SCSI adapters and I have to say I found them problematic. (But things may have improved since then--commenters, feel free to offer your experiences). And while VueScan is an impressive piece of engineering, wouldn't it be nicer if your scanner just worked with your Mac--and continued to work with the next major Mac OS update?

Also, your scanner offers 1200 dpi resolution. You can get that same resolution from a scanner today for \$50. For that \$200 you'd spend cobbling together a solution for your current scanner you can have a new scanner that offers 4800 x 9600 resolution. It's likely that this new scanner will also handle slides (though not to the extent

of a dedicated slide scanner) and include a modern copy of Photoshop Elements.

To sum up: Honestly, unless your old scanner is the reincarnation of a beloved ancestor, I see no reason to hang onto it.

I understand the pain of discarding a perfectly good scanner. It's not broken, it's simply outdated for your current setup. You can help alleviate some of that pain by donating the scanner to a group that can still use it--a school, Macintosh users group, church, or senior center. Someone will surely find a use for it. This way you get a scanner that works, someone else gets a scanner that works, and you've kept another hunk of plastic, metal, and glass out of the local landfill.

### iCal and the 24-hour clock

Reader Graham Hibbard feels hemmed in by iCal's 12-hour nature. He writes:

*I am using 10.5 with iCal, and everywhere else on my MacBook seems to be able to handle the 24-hour clock except iCal. I notice that any iCal events will only give me an AM/PM option. Any fix for this?*

There is. Within System Preferences open the International system preference and click the Formats tab. In the Times portion of the window click the Customize button.

In the sheet that appears you'll see the time in 12-hour format. Click on the hour and from the pop-up menu choose 1-24 to select the 24-hour format. To prevent AM and PM from showing you can either delete the contents of the Before Noon and After Noon fields or, in the field where the time is displayed, select AM or PM and press the Mac's Delete key.

When you have things configured to your satisfaction, click OK to dismiss the sheet. If iCal is running, quit the application. When you next launch it you'll see your events displayed in the 24-hour format. Should you wish to return to the U.S. default 12-hour format, just open the International system preference again, click the Formats tab, and from the Region pop-up menu choose United States.

### Reinstalling OS X applications

In what some might term throwing the infant out with the water in which it was steeping, reader J.S. did something that he now regrets. He writes:

*Last year I had significant problems with my iCal application. I was so dissatisfied, I deleted the application entirely and installed Sunbird. I'm wondering if it's possible to download a new, hopefully improved, version of iCal?*

Before we start, I should mention that tossing out applications-- particularly those that are bundled with the

*continued on page 5*

– Mac 911, continued from page 4

Mac OS--is not a good idea. If you don't like a particular application, simply ignore it and, chances are, it won't bother you. Now, to your particular problem.

iCal is an application bundled with Mac OS X and the only way to obtain a new version is to upgrade your version of the Mac OS--move from Tiger to Leopard, for example. However, you can reinstall the version of iCal you once had. Why do so when you were unhappy with it in the past? It's possible that something else running on your Mac was causing iCal to misbehave and a subsequent OS update--a point update such as 10.5.2, for example--addressed that issue, allowing iCal to run as Jobs intended.

Fortunately, you needn't reinstall the entire operating system to get a single application back. Both the Tiger and Leopard Installer discs include an Optional Installs installer. Launch this installer (found in the Optional Installs folder on the Leopard disc) and at the root level the Tiger Installer disc.

Just launch the installer and click the Continue buttons until you reach the Custom Install screen. Click the triangle next to Applications, tick the box next to iCal, and click the Install button to install iCal. With both the Tiger and Leopard Installer discs the Applications area of the Custom Install screen includes options for installing Address Book, iCal, iChat, iTunes, Mail, Oxford Dictionaries, Safari, and X11. Other options include Additional Fonts, Language Translations, and Printer Drivers.

If you'd like to reinstall applications that aren't offered in the Custom Install screen--applications in the Utilities folder, for example-- you can use Charles Srstka's \$20 Pacifist. It works this way:

Insert your Mac OS X Installer disc. Download Pacifist and launch it. In the window that appears click the Open Apple Install Discs button. A window will appear offering you the single choice to look at the OSInstall package. Click OK.

Pacifist will churn away for a bit and then you'll see a window titled OSInstall.mpkg. In this window you can dig down through the hierarchy of folders to find what you seek or you can enter the name of what you're after in the Find field and press Return. A drawer appears that lists the names of matching files.

To install an item click the Install button in the upper-left corner of the window. You'll be prompted for your administrator's password. Enter it, click OK, and the item will be installed into its proper location on your Mac's hard drive.

*[Macworld 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](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>.] Macworld Magazine Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of *The iPhone Pocket Guide (2007)* and *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide, second Edition (2006)* (both Peachpit Press).



## TAKE CONTROL OF IWEB IN ILIFE '08 Produce Professional-Looking Sites with iWeb

– ADAM AND TONYA ENGST



"Apple intends iWeb '08 to help Mac users create polished-looking Web sites, but not all of iWeb's features are easily understood or fully explained by Apple. The new "Take Control of iWeb: iLife '08 Edition," a 133-page ebook by iWeb expert Steve Sande, provides step-by-step instructions and plenty of time-saving tips to

help you build a Web site and publish it on either .Mac or another Web host.

You can watch over Steve's shoulder as he enhances iWeb's templates with a designer's eye, using tools like masks, reflections, and Instant Alpha. Steve teaches you the best ways to make all types of iWeb pages - including blog, podcast, photo, and movie pages - and he covers topics that go beyond the basics and way beyond the online help.

You'll learn how to add special elements to your site, such as iPhoto albums and galleries, YouTube videos, Google AdSense ads, Google maps, and forms that feed into Google Docs.

You'll also find coverage of how to edit graphics so your site loads faster, how to import podcasts and videos, how to make image maps, and even ideas for working with CafePress, Google Checkout, or Zen Cart to create an online store. It's \$10, with the usual 10% MUG discount if you use the link below."

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### Book Details

*Take Control of iWeb: iLife '08 Edition* by Steve Sande. PDF format, 133 pages, free 30-page sample available  
Publication date: March 20, 2008

Price: \$10 (PDF); \$20.99 (Print) ISBN: 1-933671-37-8

## THE X LEX – Monthly Excerpts for MUGs from Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon

BY SHARON ZARDETTO AND ANDY BAIRD

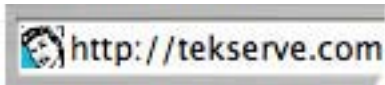
### WHATCHAMACALLITS

There's a disturbing trend in Apple documentation. Not the fact that there isn't much—that is pretty disturbing, but that's not what I'm talking about. I'm referring to the fact that Apple seems to avoid naming things, using just verbs in its online (and other) help documents: "Click Now." And what is that "Now" object—it's a sort of chopped-edge buttony thing in a row of other similar objects, formerly called a tab but no longer looking like one... and it takes you to a... subset of preference pane options that's called a... ?

Things need names! Especially interface elements! This month's excerpts are about things whose names you might not know.

#### favicon

FAYV·ih·con · favorites + icon · The 16x16-pixel icon that usually appears next to a Web page's address in a browser's URL box, and in a bookmark or "favorites" list. (Sharon much prefers the lesser-used, silly-sounding, alternative name for this: *urlicon*, but only if you pronounce it "earl-a-con.")



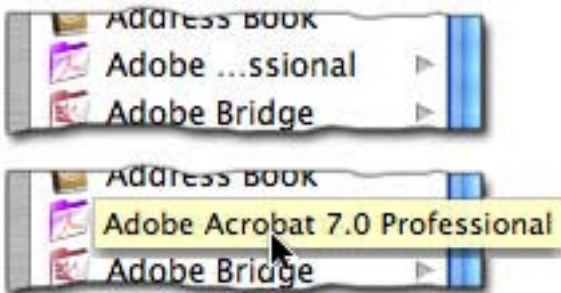
#### handles

Small squares displayed at the corners of an onscreen object, used for resizing or otherwise manipulating it.



#### help tag

A pop-up box of information, also sometimes called a tip or hint, or even tool tip because its first use was for identifying the functions of buttons on Microsoft tool palettes. For most help tags, all you have to do is hover over



something for about 2 seconds. The Finder has handy help tags for icon names whose middles drop out when they're too long. (Is 2 seconds too long to wait? Press Option for instant pop-up help tags!)

#### scroller

The scrollbox of yesteryear's Mac interface that transmuted into the blue "lozenge" in Mac OS X's scrollbars also received this new name, although most users didn't get the memo.



#### sheet

Occasionally used to refer to a dialog that slides down from under a window's title bar. As Apple tweaks Mac OS X, features come and go, get names briefly, or just go nameless. This name didn't catch on, but it still pops up (well, it doesn't pop up, or slide down, or anything like that—it's just there) in some Apple documentation.

#### proxy icon

The tiny icon in front of a Finder window's name. You can drag the icon (by clicking on it and hesitating for a fraction of a second before dragging it) instead of going back to the enclosing folder if you want to manipulate the current window—drag it to the Trash, for instance.

Most document windows have proxy icons, too. You can do nifty things with them, like drag them to a Finder window or onto the Desktop to save a copy of the document there, or into another document—we dragged a lot of Word proxy icons into Mail message windows when exchanging documents while working on this book. The proxy icon is dimmed if the document has unsaved changes, and it can't be manipulated; this prevents you from mistakenly copying a document with unsaved changes.



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*Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon* is an ebook available at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/mac-lexicon.html>. User-group member discount, 10% on all *Take Control* titles: coupon code CPN31208MUG. Queries: [xlex@33thingsbooks.com](mailto:xlex@33thingsbooks.com). Email Sharon ([sharonLex@33thingsbooks.com](mailto:sharonLex@33thingsbooks.com)) or Andy ([Andy@33thingsbooks.com](mailto:Andy@33thingsbooks.com)) about the Lexicon.

## Special Offers from the Apple User Group Bulletin

These 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.

### H-Squared Products: 20-30% Discount

H-Squared produces a wide range of mounting solutions for Apple products like the AirPort Extreme, Mac mini and AppleTV. All mounts are precision designed and manufactured in the US to ensure a perfect fit and a secure grip.

With this special offer, user group members can purchase the Air Mount for \$24.47, a 30% discount from the regular price of \$34.95, and can receive 20% off everything else (prices vary).

Discount codes:

- Air Mount: \*\*\*\*\*

- All other products: \*\*\*\*\*

<http://www.h-sq.com>

This offer is valid through June 30, 2008.

### 3Dconnexion SpaceNavigator SE: 25% Off

Like a three-dimensional mouse, 3Dconnexion has made 3D navigation accessible and affordable for Mac users who want to enjoy the 3D control experience and increase their productivity.

SpaceNavigator SE, 3Dconnexion's newest product, offers phone, web, email technical support and an expanding number of compatible Mac applications—all one needs to enjoy using this product.

Regularly \$99, user group members can buy a SpaceNavigator SE with extensive support for only \$74 using the discount code below.

Discount code: \*\*\*\*\*

See a complete list of supported applications. <http://www.3dconnexion.com/3dmouse/spacenavigator.php>

Purchase 3Dconnexion SpaceNavigator SE. <http://www.3dconnexion.com/buy/onlinestore.php>

This offer is valid through June 30, 2008.

### Kerio Groupware and Email Service: Save 25%

InfTek's Hosted Kerio service is the Mac user's preferred groupware and email solution. This Hosted Kerio service allows users to synchronize events and To Do's in Apple iCal on Leopard with Kerio WebMail, or a smartphone through Kerio MailServer's CalDAV access. Hosted Kerio accounts support the native Microsoft Exchange features found in Apple Mail, iCal, Address Book and Entourage.

Regularly \$5.95 per month, user group members can subscribe for \$4.49 per month per mailbox using the

promotional code: \*\*\*\*\*

<http://www.inftekhosting.com/isharepro.html>

This offer is valid through June 30, 2008.

### ActionBacks: Huge Savings for Group Members

ActionBacks is a collection of royalty-free animated graphics for video and multimedia production. With over 1,500 professional animations, Suite Imagery, LLC offers a wide variety of themes, including high tech, wedding, sports, home video, church, globes and scenic animations. All are available in NTSC or PAL video formats.

ActionBacks videos normally cost \$79 for the first volume and \$50 for each additional volume purchased at the same time. However, Apple User Group members can now buy an exclusive one-year unlimited ActionBacks download membership for only \$199. This offer provides full access to all available animations, including any new animations released within the year.

<http://www.ActionBacks.com>

This offer is valid through June 30, 2008.

### Azure Talon Exces: 30%

Exces is a simple, easy-to-use and secure encryption utility that allows you to protect your files with the click of a button. Just pick a password, lock and you're good to go. Exces uses the strong, uncracked, AES encryption standard that sports an elegant user interface. It is simply one of the most appealing file protection solutions available.

Apple user group members pay the special price of \$19.59, instead of the retail price of \$28.29.

<http://excesapp.com>

This offer is valid through May 31, 2008.

### The MUG Store: Blowouts and More

Looking for a used iMac or a great deal on an internal hard drive? Just love sorting through discounts and closeouts? Then visit the Blowouts area of the Mug Store, where you will find great deals on all sorts of new, discontinued and used products.

Remember that everything you buy means points for your group to spend any way it wants!

User ID: \*\*\*\*\* / password: \*\*\*\*\*

See this month's Blowouts.

<http://www.applemugstore.com/mugstore/blowouts.php>

Shop the MUG Store.

<http://www.applemugstore.com>.

This offer is valid through June 30, 2008.

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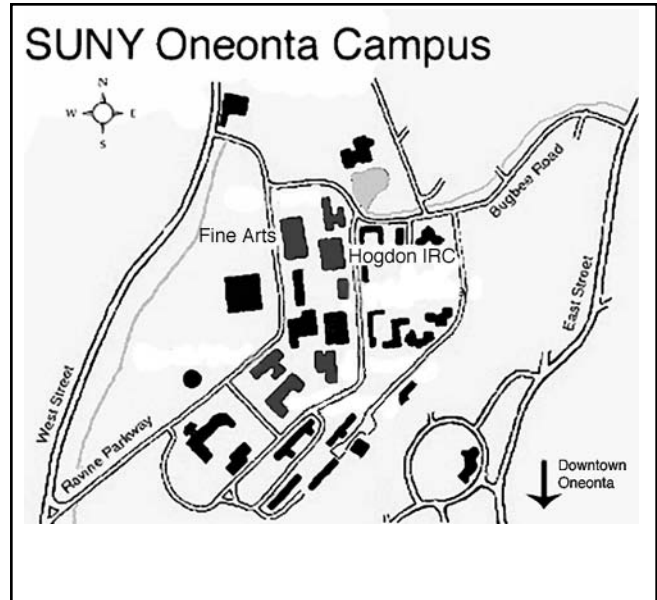
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## MARCH 5 MUG ONE MEETING MINUTES

### TERRY DOES TAXES - TERRY HELSER

#### Questions and Answers

Gary Caso, a new member, asked a question about plists and Nikon software. It was a good question, but too “granular” (detailed and user-specific) for this venue. Elsa mentioned “Tidbits” <http://www.tidbits.com> and the “Take Control” books <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com> for in-depth, yet understandable information on questions like that one.

Gerianne Carillo asked about Photoshop vs. Lightbox or Aperture. Sven and others treated us to some good information about the difference between how those programs manage photos.

Brian Foley mentioned that we’ve finally got an on-line form in which you can fill in a questionnaire about your computer, what programs you use, and what kind of presentations you’d like to see in the future. We’ll eventually get it onto the MUG ONE site, but for how it’s at <http://mathmojo.com/mugone/form.html>. If you haven’t filled out the questionnaire Brian handed out at a previous meeting, please enter your info into the form on the above page (it takes a few seconds to load), so we can make sure we have even more relevant, quality programming for you at future meetings.

#### Presentation

Then Terry Helsler gave us some great, utterly usable information about online tax programs in his presentation, “Terry does Taxes.”

He compared and contrasted three of the major on-line

choices in depth, while touching on some others, as well. Here’s the basic scoop:

- Tax Act. \$16.95 (or about \$20 if you buy it outright and download the program) by J.K. Lasser, publisher of tax guides. It includes state as well as federal taxes.
- TurboTax (by Intuit) at \$149 is the most functional, but by far the most expensive. It seems like overkill for most users. He pointed us to an online tax services report in MacWorld Magazine [http://www.macworld.com/article/132273/2008/02/taxprep\\_online.html](http://www.macworld.com/article/132273/2008/02/taxprep_online.html). TurboTax was their first choice.
- Tax Cut (“I’ve got people”) is from H.R. block. Terry did not seem enamored of this program.

Terry mentioned that he files electronically, but he prints a form and sends it with a check, instead of paying with a credit card, for various reasons that were discussed.

The presentation was informative and interesting, AND Terry brought cookies. (Let’s see Dave Marra or Adam Engst do that!)

Sven Anderson gave us this nugget from someone he knows at the IRS: If you’re ever audited, bring all your receipts from the last seven years (shaken, not stirred).

Thanks for the great presentation, Terry!

– BRIAN FOLEY

